

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Families and Children's Services was called to order by Vice-Chair Dean.

Members present: Reps. Clack, Dean, Hammon, Wojno, Sheen.

Members absent/excused: Reps. Accavitti, Stahl, Hoogendyk, Palmer.

Representative Sheen moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2007 meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Vice-Chair Dean laid HB 4735 before the committee.

**HB 4735 Polidori**

Human services; children's services; procedure for placement of children in a foster home; expand to give special consideration to relatives.

Representative Clack assumed the Chair.

Representative Gino Polidori, sponsor of HB 4735, testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Rehab and Ahmed Amer of Dearborn testified in support of the bill. Ms. Amer also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Ronald Smith of Children Need Both Parents testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Sally Borghesis of Grand Rapids testified in support of the bill. Ms. Borghesis also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Ama Agyemang of MSU Kinship Care Resource Center testified in support of the bill.

James Gale and Steve Yager of the Michigan Department of Human Services testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Ron Hicks and Tammy Jakus of the Michigan Department of Human Services submitted a card in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify.

Representative Sheen moved to report HB 4735 with recommendation. **The motion prevailed 5-0-0.**

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL**

**Yeas: Reps. Clack, Dean, Hammon, Wojno, Sheen.**

**Nays: None.**

**Pass: None.**

Representative Sheen moved to excuse the absence of Representatives Accavitti, Stahl, Hoogendyk, and Palmer. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

**Representative Brenda Clack, Chair**\_\_\_\_\_

Dan Stump, Committee Clerk

House Families and Children's Services Committee, (517) 373-5795